



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Marathon County



### ***County characteristics***

- 1,584 sq. mi.
- West ½ farmland with scattered woodlots; east ½ woodlands with scattered farmland
- Experiencing significant urban and suburban development in the Wausau area
- There are 126,031 residents living in Marathon County



### ***Public Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 53,500 acres of public land including Mead/McMillan Wildlife Area, the Plover River Fishery Area, and Rib Mountain State Park

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

- DNR Service Center 5301 Rib Mountain Drive, Wausau, 54494;
- Wausau/ Marathon County: 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Fisheries Biologist (also serves portions of Portage County); 2 Conservation Wardens (1 vacancy); 2 Customer Service Representatives;

- Mead Wildlife Area, S2148 County Hwy. S, Milladore, 54454. 1 Wildlife Biol.; 4 Wildlife Techs.

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Restore habitat on about 5,000 feet of trout stream annually
- Establish and maintain forest, grassland, and wetland habitat for a wide variety of native wildlife
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and fishing access sites, build and maintain parking areas
- Monitor local populations of waterfowl, grouse, woodcock, turkey, deer, bear, furbearers, and endangered species
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functional for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups
- Maintenance and development of upland forest, grassland, and wetland habitat

### **Conservation Snapshots**

**35** ALIS License Agents supported

**19** Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations

**10** stream access sites and 3 boat launches

- Establishment of 20 major waterfowl/wetland wildlife flowages (4,500 acres)
- 35 miles of hunter walking trails
- Creation of 40 small waterfowl flowages
- Major wildlife education program and facility
- Annual maintenance and repair of dike systems
- Annual harvest of 120 acres of forest within an integrated forest management program
- Establishment of prairie and cool season grasses for wild turkey, deer, prairie chicken, and other grassland species
- Maintenance of over 45 parking areas
- Incorporation of prescribed burning, agriculture, mowing, brush and tree removal in wetland and grassland habitat maintenance

### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- Marathon County has one lake stocked with walleyes and one lake stocked with muskies. Marathon County has excellent walleye reproduction and fishing on portions of the Wisconsin River and its tributaries.
- In addition, there are 7 streams stocked with nearly 7,000 trout, including browns and brook trout.

### ***County Success Stories***

- Inclusion in recently approved Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Program
- Contains part of the Mead/McMillan Wildlife Area (third largest wildlife area complex in the state)

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management



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